THE PATH TO PEACE

I wish to complete my work with a testament that will remain for my students after me. Its content will consist entirely of advice based on my personal experience, centered on virtue. I hope these words will strike them as deeply as they have struck me.

Children, the meaning of the word “Selbstachtung” is self-respect.
— Take care of yourself, respect yourself —

It is what enables you to believe in eternal life and to resist sin, and to pray. It is what enables you to respect age and wisdom, what brings you shame when you do wrong, what teaches you to reject lies and to love truth.
Children, it is also what makes us welcome the stranger, help the excluded, the despised, and the weak.

To the Swiss people!
I have seen your decline, your terrible decline; I was shattered and desired to help. Yet I have neither knowledge nor talent, and I am of no value in this world!
But I am aware of your needs. Therefore I dedicate my life and my labor to you. Read me without prejudice; if you find something better and truer, cast me aside!
But if no one else can say what I say or take you by the hand, then offer a tear to the life I have spent and to my memory…

The seed does not sprout unless the soil is well prepared; despite the warmth of the sun, if the soil is bad, the seed will die.
Can someone who has not completed their daily tasks fall asleep in peace?
If the seeds of one’s life are not capable of producing good fruit, one cannot hope for a peaceful death or a blessed resurrection.
Likewise, a person who does not take responsibility and does not strive toward competence cannot attain inner peace. The one who develops their inner world will find the strength to fulfill their duties in the outer world.
Let us ask ourselves:
What am I doing for my own development?
Do my actions show even a little that I am progressing toward maturity?
Only the prophets could say before death, “Everything is completed.” We, in truth, complete nothing; our actions are fragmented and unfinished. We are weak, yet we find peace to the extent that we strive toward perfection. For only the one who fulfills their duties while alive can face death with serenity.

Above all, let us try to love our Creator more and more, then our parents who brought us into the world, and finally one another, our fellow human beings, more and more.